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Report of the regional implementation meeting for Africa

Introduction

1. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, referred to as "Rio+20", was convened from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The objective of the Conference was to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assess the progress and implementation gaps, and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference focused on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

2. The General Assembly called for efficient and effective preparations for the Conference at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system, and encouraged the active participation of all major groups at all stages of the preparatory process. In this context, and in recognition of the important role that United Nations regional commissions play in bridging the gap between global level agreements and national level priorities and actions, the Assembly called for the regional implementation meetings coordinated by regional commissions in preparation for the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be converted to regional preparatory meetings for the Conference.

3. The Conference resulted in the outcome document "The Future We Want",[1] in which the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives renewed their commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for the present and future generations. In line with this decision of the General Assembly, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) spearheaded the Africa regional preparatory process for the Conference, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in partnership with regional economic communities, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The process was aimed at supporting African countries to collectively articulate their concerns and priorities at

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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the Conference and to ensure that these were adequately reflected in the Conference outcomes. It also aimed at strengthening regional consultative mechanisms to support implementation of the Conference outcomes.

4. Following the Conference, it was decided that the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would convene in New York in May 2013 and that the deliberations would focus on the Conference outcomes. The outcome of the twentieth session of the Commission will feed into the General Assembly processes on follow-up to the outcomes. In this regard, the regional commissions were requested to organize regional implementation meetings in preparation for the twentieth session of the Commission. In the Africa region, the sessions of the ECA Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development have, since 2005, provided platforms for the Africa regional implementation meetings. In this context, the eighth session of the Committee, held from 19 to 21 November 2012, provided the platform for the Africa regional implementation meeting for the twentieth session of the Commission. The regional implementation meeting was organized by ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. The deliberations of the regional implementation meeting focused on the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that would be discussed at the twentieth session of the Commission; namely, the high-level political forum on sustainable development; the sustainable development goals; means of implementation (financing sustainable development, technology development and transfer; and capacity development); and the third international conference on small island developing States. In addition to these, the regional implementation meeting considered other outcomes deemed pertinent to Africa, such as the voluntary commitments that complement the traditional means of implementation, a programme on measures to complement Gross Domestic Product (GDP Plus), the green economy and the Africa section of the outcome document. In the context of these outcomes, the meeting also discussed relevant aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

6. The following constitutes the Africa regional implementation meeting outcome document for the follow-up processes to the Conference, including the twentieth session of the Commission. It represents Africa's collective input to that session and to the open working group on sustainable development goals. It is considered a living document that will be updated in consultation with the Bureau of the eighth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development, the African Permanent Representatives in Addis Ababa and the Coordinator of the Africa Group in New York on the basis of relevant information and developments between its adoption and the convening of the twentieth session of the Commission. It will be presented at relevant regional forums, including the twentieth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Commission Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Preamble

We, the representatives of African member States having consulted with relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations and major groups:

Having met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19 to 21 November 2012 for the Africa regional implementation meeting in preparation for the twentieth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;

Recalling the commitments on sustainable development made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, otherwise referred to as "Rio+20", which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, embodied in its outcome document "The Future We Want";

Also recalling that the Conference recognized poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge and a key overarching objective of sustainable development, and in this respect lauding its commitment to eradicate poverty, address food insecurity, promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, social development and environmental protection;

Welcoming the commitment of the Conference to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages;

Also welcoming the reaffirmation by the Conference of the commitment to accelerate the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, and the support to Africa's sustainable development efforts, including the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

Commending the reaffirmation by the Conference of the Rio Principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as well as Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation);[4]

Expressing appreciation for the recognition by the Conference of the vital role played by all major groups, including women, children and youth, indigenous people, farmers, workers and trade unions, the scientific and technological community, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders in furthering sustainable development;

Also expressing appreciation for the partnership among and the role played by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, UNEP and UNDP in supporting African countries to collectively articulate their concerns and priorities at the Conference and in ensuring that these were adequately reflected in the conference outcomes;

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Reaffirm the key role of all levels of Government and legislative bodies in promoting sustainable development. In this regard, we request ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, UNEP, UNDP and other partners to continue and step up the efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Conference to support sustainable development efforts in Africa;

Hereby adopt this outcome document as follows:

Sustainable development bodies

A. Global

1. Africa welcomes the recognition by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that the institutional framework for sustainable development should be consistent with the Rio Principles of 1992 and should build on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The region reiterates that the framework should not be an end in itself, but should be linked to the achievement of sustainable development and thus the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). In this regard, the region underlines the need to avoid overlaps in institutional mandates, the role and importance of having effective institutions and strategies, and multi-stakeholder participation. Moreover, the region considers it pertinent to ensure effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national-level institutional processes on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity.

High-level political forum for sustainable development

2. Africa considers the high-level political forum as a forum for policy and decision-making on sustainable development matters at the global level. In this regard, Africa welcomes its impending establishment as a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum to, inter alia, provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development.

3. The high-level political forum shall make policy decisions as it carries out the following functions:

(a) Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;

(b) Enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;

(c) Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, and for stock-taking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development;

(d) Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development opportunities and challenges;

(e) Follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as their respective means of implementation.

4. The operational modalities of the forum should ensure effective linkages with related bodies from regional to local levels. These linkages should be based on the principle of subsidiarity in view of its importance in ensuring effective implementation of global sustainable development agreements by means of tangible actions and outcomes at the national and local levels.

Format and organizational matter

5. Africa proposes that the high-level political forum shall have the following format and organizational aspects:

(a) Be composed of the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives;

(b) Convene for two days at the beginning of the sessions of the General Assembly every three years;

(c) Be preceded by preparatory meetings of technical experts for three days, and be supported by inputs and reports by relevant stakeholders;

(d) Have a strong secretariat that would, inter alia, support its function of ensuring balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

(e) Be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and its outcomes be a declaration adopted by the General Assembly;

(f) Benefit from the contribution and inputs of all relevant stakeholders.

B. Regional and subregional

6. Africa lauds the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for its recognition of the important role of regional and subregional institutions in promoting sustainable development at those levels, including fostering effective linkages between the global, national and local-level institutions. It is noteworthy that the Conference, inter alia, emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including regional commissions and their subregional offices, play a significant role in promoting balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and underscored the need to support these institutions. In the Africa region, ECA, in collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations, as well as United Nations agencies, has been organizing Africa regional implementation meetings in preparation for the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, with impressive results. ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the regional economic communities should therefore build on this experience in order to facilitate consultative meetings and processes that

monitor, evaluate and scale-up implementation of sustainable development commitments by all countries.

7. In the light of the foregoing, Africa puts forward the following recommendations:

(a) The regional implementation meetings should be upgraded to regional high-level political forums for sustainable development, in order to constitute regional chapters of the high-level political forum. This should build on the valuable experience gained in convening the regional implementation meetings;

(b) ECA should convene the Africa regional political forum in preparation for the sessions of the high-level forum on sustainable development, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with relevant partners. In doing so, the provision of a strengthened platform that adequately ensures enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should be ensured;

(c) To enhance participation in the Africa regional political forum, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the regional economic communities should be more actively engaged in the preparation of regional and subregional review reports in collaboration with ECA and United Nations agencies, as well as in the convening of Africa regional political forums;

(d) Preparations for and participation in the Africa regional political forums should ensure adequate coordination among delegations from member States, who are encouraged to include in their delegations representatives from capitals, the African missions in Addis Ababa and the African Group in New York. Representatives of major groups should also be invited to participate. This would ensure a richly informed, well-coordinated and participatory process, and effective linkages between local, national, regional and global-level processes;

(e) ECA subregional offices and regional economic communities, in collaboration with other bodies and United Nations agencies operating at the subregional level, should organize review meetings informed by subregional review reports, which should in turn be informed by national review reports. The subregional review reports and outcomes of the subregional review meetings should feed into the Africa-level reports and regional political forums;

(f) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should work with ECA to ensure that the national, subregional, regional and global-level processes and linkages spelled out above are realized accordingly;

(g) In line with the outcomes of the Conference, concrete actions should be taken to strengthen ECA and its subregional offices to enhance their support to African countries in furthering their sustainable development objectives, including building capacity to facilitate mainstreaming, integrated assessments, monitoring and evaluation and the provision of platforms to promote experience-sharing and knowledge networking;

(h) The Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme and its subregional chapters should enhance its role in supporting a coordinated and coherent approach to United Nations support to Africa in the implementation of sustainable

development agreements and ensure effective linkage with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process at the national level;

(i) In view of the resource implications of ensuring well-coordinated and effective processes at the different levels, Africa calls upon the international community to provide it with adequate support to this end.

C. National and local

8. Africa underscores the call of the Conference for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels, and calls on the international community to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes dealing with sustainable development, including coordinating and enabling the effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. These bodies should consolidate and ensure the mainstreaming of sustainable development at the highest level of decision-making organs of Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations. Moreover, the modus operandi of these coordinating bodies should ensure the involvement of all ministries, relevant Government entities and other stakeholders to enable them to exercise their full responsibilities in sustainable development.

9. In the light of the above, the following should inform the establishment, the strengthening and the functioning of coordinating bodies for sustainable development at the national level:

(a) The mandate, location and organizational structure of coordinating bodies should allow for horizontal and vertical linkages, and ensure that the three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in an integrated manner;

(b) The composition of coordinating bodies should be broad-based, ensuring the full and effective involvement of all relevant ministries and Government entities and major groups. Participatory mechanisms should ensure the active engagement of all stakeholders in decision-making and the implementation of activities;

(c) National coordinating bodies for sustainable development should have decentralized structures at local levels to guide implementation and ensure that the desired impact is made at those levels. National bodies should be encouraged to recognize and include local experiences, lessons learned and actions in sustainability solutions and agreements and to feed them into the policy and decision-making processes at the national level;

(d) Sustainable development coordinating bodies should guide the development and the implementation of policies, strategies and plans in order to ensure synergies and avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts;

(e) Coordinating bodies should adopt or enhance the use and application of approaches and tools, including integrated assessments, to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

(f) Coordinating bodies should have a sensitization and advocacy role regarding sustainable development matters and should provide platforms for experience-sharing and knowledge networking;

(g) ECA, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in partnership with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the regional economic communities and other partners, should provide capacity-building support and promote exchange of experiences and knowledge networking among the coordinating bodies.

Sustainable development goals

10. Africa recognizes the important role that sustainable development goals, based on the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Action, could play in pursuing sustainable development, coherent with and integrated into the development agenda beyond 2015 (post-2015 development agenda) on the basis of the Millennium Declaration. Taking into account that the development of these goals should not divert efforts, resources and focus from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we emphasize that most African countries are lagging behind and may not achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In this regard, Africa reiterates the need for acceleration of support to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

11. Africa considers it critical that the sustainable development goals complement the Millennium Development Goals, rather than be a substitute for them. Linking the sustainable development goals to the Millennium Development Goals and establishing goals that become part of the post-2015 development agenda would promote coherence in policymaking and synergistic implementation of internationally agreed goals. It would also minimize the pressure on the limited institutional capacities of many African countries that would otherwise be struggling with a myriad of agendas that appear to be unrelated, distinct or separate. In this regard, it is imperative that the two processes be carried out in close collaboration and synergy. The sustainable development goals should also encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, in order to ensure greater convergence among the issues captured by the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

12. Africa reaffirms that sustainable development goals should be based on the following principles:

(a) The Rio Principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities;

(b) Goals, targets and indicators should embody the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as issues pertaining to governance for sustainable development;

(c) Sustainable development goals should be action-oriented and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development over time. In this regard, they should have clear and measurable targets designed to take into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and developmental levels;

(d) Sustainable development goals should be universal in nature and flexible enough to cater for different national priorities;

(e) Sustainable development goals must build on and complement the Millennium Development Goals that must be maintained and be effectively implemented and supported;

(f) Sustainable development goals must be accompanied by adequate means of implementation, particularly financing, technology transfer and capacity-building;

(g) Sustainable development goals should promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development;

(h) Sustainable development goals should be developed in the context of one United Nations development agenda.

13. Eradicating poverty, the greatest challenge facing the African continent today, remains an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Therefore, Africa considers that the sustainable development goals should address the following priority areas:

(a) Poverty eradication;

(b) Combating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition;

(c) Access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities;

(d) Access to quality education and health services;

(e) Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women;

(f) Equitable and universal access to social services and social protection;

(g) Sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

(h) Reducing vulnerability and promoting resilience, including to the impacts of climate change;

(i) Creating decent employment opportunities;

(j) Enhancing infrastructure development;

(k) Ensuring access to affordable and sustainable energy;

(l) Combating land degradation and desertification, drought and deforestation;

(m) Addressing climate change challenges, including through adaptation and mitigation;

(n) Promoting sustainable water resource management;

(o) Ensuring favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(p) Fostering peace and security.

14. The goals, targets and indicators should be informed by the outcomes of the Africa process on the post-2015 development agenda and of the sustainable development report on Africa, in the context of which a sustainable development indicator set has been established for Africa. The process is led by ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and United Nations agencies.

15. The sustainable development report on Africa provides an important medium for assessing progress towards sustainable development in Africa and should constitute the regional chapter of the proposed global sustainable development report. The sustainable development report on Africa process should therefore be supported to ensure that the report becomes the authoritative reference document for tracking progress towards sustainable development in the region.

16. In addition to domesticating the sustainable development goals and related targets and indicators at the regional level, they should also be domesticated at the subregional and national levels. Indeed, a clear and actionable indicator framework for sustainable development at the national level is important to enhance understanding, guide integration modalities and identify the type of linkages that should exist among different sectors. In this connection, the region calls on relevant global and regional institutions to support countries in the development and application of sustainable development indicator frameworks.

17. In order to ensure a well-coordinated and effective sustainable development goal process, Africa calls on the international community to provide it with adequate support to enable it to establish an effective, broad-based bottom-up consultative process to flesh out goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the sustainable development goals.

Means of implementation

18. Africa recognizes that it is primarily responsible for its own development, and has made significant strides in this regard. It is clear, however, that the region requires external support to complement its efforts, particularly in the face of new and emerging challenges. Therefore, the region deems as critical the fulfilment of previous commitments and pledges on means of implementation, including financing, technology development and transfer, capacity development, international trade and South-South cooperation. In this context, the international community should capitalize on the synergies among the different means of implementation in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in their delivery for sustainable development. Africa is encouraged by the recognition of the Conference of the need for additional resources for sustainable development on the part of developing countries and its further recognition of the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing.

A. Financing

19. Africa welcomes the agreement reached at the Conference and the subsequent General Assembly resolution to establish an intergovernmental process to better inform decisions regarding sustainable development financing. The region is encouraged that the process will assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. Africa is well represented, and will actively participate in the deliberations of the working group constituted by the General Assembly, which is tasked with the

assessment of financing needs and the preparation of the sustainable development financing strategy. In this context, Africa submits the following recommendations:

(a) The process for the identification of a sustainable development financing strategy should be broad-based, transparent and inclusive and take into account the views of all stakeholders;

(b) The process should explore all possible sources of financing, including internal and external, public and private. These should include strategies to enable countries, in particular developing countries, to mobilize additional domestic resources for sustainable development, including through innovative sources; mechanisms to enhance revenues from the exploitation of natural resources and to direct these towards development objectives; the establishment of special drawing rights for developing regions; the extension of debt relief beyond its current levels (based on debt "sustainability"); opportunities for public-private partnerships in financing public projects with high social and economic returns; leveraging on existing specialized financing instruments, such as those on climate change, including the Global Environment Facility; the role of foreign direct investment, official development assistance, and the aid and development effectiveness agenda;

(c) The process should exploit the promotion of synergies among the different means of implementation (financing, technology, capacity development and trade) to enhance efficiency in the deployment and use of resources;

(d) Assessment of financing needs should focus on the sustainable development priorities of countries in line with their national development objectives, and the strategy should prioritize the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed;

(e) Furthermore, ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other partners should provide platforms for broad-based consultations on the financing strategy in Africa, in order to ensure that the inputs of the African members of the sustainable development financing committee are well informed on the priorities and concerns of the region.

20. While actively engaging in the global process, African countries remain committed to continuing to mobilize domestic resources (both public and private), improve the national governance environment, harmonize national, regional and international efforts, pursue policy coherence, and establish or strengthen national policies that promote investment to implement sustainable development commitments.

21. The African Development Bank, ECA and the African Union Commission should support countries to:

(a) Carry out a comprehensive assessment of the sustainable development financing requirements for the region to inform its negotiating position regarding the sustainable development financing strategy;

(b) Consolidate existing funds for sustainable development-related matters with the aim of providing an overall picture of the financial resources available, creating synergies, assessing gaps and developing a strategy for mobilizing additional resources;

(c) Explore, in the context of subparagraph (b) above, the possibility of establishing an Africa sustainable development fund for priority areas such as

capacity development and the reform of institutions and processes; research and development to support innovation and the generation of new knowledge; developing mechanisms for technology development, transfer, adaptation and application; and infrastructure policy reforms.

B. Technology development and transfer

22. Africa considers that access to safe, clean and environmentally sustainable technologies that are adapted to local needs and circumstances would help the region exploit its rich natural resource base without undermining its sustainability, thereby contributing to sustainable development in the region. But most African countries do not have adequate access to these technologies, as they lack the technological know-how, skills, resources and infrastructure, including institutions and the business environment necessary to stimulate technology development. In this regard, Africa is inspired by the emphasis of the Conference on the need for technology transfer to developing countries. However, the region notes the caveat implying that this transfer should be mutually agreed. Therefore, Africa reiterates its call on the international community to make technology transfer a binding commitment on the part of developed countries.

23. Notwithstanding, Africa is encouraged by the undertaking of the Conference to support the building of science and technology capacity, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the private sector, Governments, non-governmental organizations and scientists. Africa is further encouraged by the call of the Conference for relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, the transfer and the dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Africa will actively participate in the discussions to ensure that the region's priorities and concerns with respect to technology development, adaptation and transfer are adequately reflected.

24. In the light of the above, Africa submits that the report of the Secretary-General on a technology facilitation mechanism that would promote the development, the transfer and the dissemination of clean technologies should include the following considerations:

(a) The need to address all steps involved in the process of technology transfer, notably: (i) the identification of the need and the technology of interest; (ii) the potential sources, costs and negotiations to gain access; (iii) the actual transfer of technology; (iv) adaptation and learning to operate and maintain the technology; and (v) the use and further upgrade of the acquired technologies;

(b) The need for the United Nations to establish an independent advisory board drawing on its various agencies to provide different perspectives on technology development, transfer and use. A system-wide approach to the development, the transfer and the use of clean technology would enable the United Nations to coordinate its activities across its agencies;

(c) Establishment of regional network of centres of excellence and hubs, leveraging on existing networks and institutional arrangements to assess the needs and to identify, develop, adapt and transfer clean technologies;

(d) Strategies to promote and strengthen regional, subregional and national institutions in technology innovation through increased financial resources, as well as partnerships within and outside the region for technology development, and promoting partnerships among industry, academia and Governments; this may include the establishment of a mechanism that can help countries identify, source, adapt and utilize existing and emerging technologies as close to the ground as possible;

(e) The role of partnerships between Government, business and civil society to identify and test new technologies and approaches, and to scale up promising ones. This should include the role of public funding in leveraging sustainable private investments;

(f) Agreements to promote coordination and synergies across the various technology transfer initiatives and the establishment of technology mechanisms and technology networks. Such mechanisms and networks should be leveraged upon for the development, the diffusion and the transfer of broader green technologies for sustainable development;

(g) Options for establishing regional funding mechanisms to support developing countries in meeting the costs associated with technology development, adaptation, transfer and deployment. These should include training and any royalties or licensing fees where the owners of the technologies may not be willing to wave them;

(h) International support for the establishment of a technology development and transfer mechanism in Africa, in particular for those technologies that can help Africa better exploit its rich natural resource base without undermining its sustainability.

C. Capacity development

25. Africa considers capacity development, including its human resources, organizational and institutional facets, as crucial to implementing sustainable development commitments in the region. In this regard, the region recognizes the need to develop and implement comprehensive national capacity development strategies as a matter of priority to further the implementation of its sustainable development agenda. In addition to the international community, Africa endeavours to strengthen partnerships with non-traditional actors and the private sector, both within and outside the continent, to leverage resources and capacities for sustainable development. Moreover, Africa reiterates the urgent need to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

26. Africa appreciates the emphasis of the Conference on the need for enhanced efforts for sustainable development, its call for strengthened technical and scientific cooperation, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as its reiteration of human resource development, including through training and knowledge transfer. The region reiterates the call of the Conference for relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations to support developing countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies.

27. In the light of the foregoing, Africa submits that the international community supports the following actions:

(a) Revision of the African Union-NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework to enhance the building of capacity for implementing sustainable development commitments. The new strategy should include clear and measurable indicators to monitor and evaluate interventions that address the progress of the region on capacity development;

(b) Elaboration of national capacity development strategies that take a broader perspective, embodying all aspects of capacity development, including human resource development, organizational development and institutional development;

(c) Reform of educational curricula in Africa to provide for the development of knowledge and skills for sustainable development at all levels;

(d) Promotion of coordination and synergies among the various capacity development initiatives, in international agreements in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

D. Voluntary commitments

28. Africa welcomes the commitments voluntarily entered into at the Conference and throughout 2012 by all stakeholders to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty. Africa underlines the importance of these voluntary commitments, which could help the region to translate the various outcomes of the Conference into concrete programmes and actions to promote and achieve sustainable development in the region. Therefore, it is essential that African countries fully benefit from the voluntary commitments and promote the scaling-up of the related initiatives. In this regard, African countries will endeavour to:

(a) Work with the committing organizations in order to better define and specify the target countries/beneficiaries, mechanisms for accessing and activating the financing and technical support, and clarifying roles and responsibilities;

(b) Work with the various committing organizations to ensure better coordinated and integrated approaches in the delivery of the commitments, as this would enhance synergy and ensure effectiveness in the realization of the commitments;

(c) Engage the committing organizations and beneficiary countries to develop and implement short, medium or long-term monitoring/tracking, accountability and dialogue framework and forums in order to follow-up and ensure delivery on the commitments;

(d) Be proactive in expressing their interest to committing organizations for inclusion in relevant initiatives. This is particularly important for those countries that have not been specifically targeted;

(e) Advocate for specific and more commitments on sustainable development in priority areas. These include poverty eradication; sustainable development economics, finance and trade; measuring sustainable development

progress; natural disaster preparedness; land degradation and desertification control; gender equality; and sustainable consumption and production;

(f) Together with the committing organizations, document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the course of implementation.

29. Furthermore, Africa calls upon ECA and partners to:

(a) Serve as a broker among the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the committing organizations and the target countries and beneficiaries to ensure that the intended support is provided in an efficient manner;

(b) Identify non-target countries and advocate for their inclusion in relevant programmes;

(c) Promote platforms to share experiences and foster knowledge networking among countries and other stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society organizations. The aim is to contribute to effective implementation, as well as the scaling-up and scaling-out of good practices and success stories.

Third international conference on small island developing States

30. Africa is heartened by the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for continued and enhanced efforts to support small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, as well as for strengthening United Nations system support to small island developing States. In this connection, the region welcomes the agreement reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to convene in 2014 the third international conference on small island developing States, building on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and the subsequent adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session of a resolution that spells out the modalities of that conference. African small island developing States endeavour to effectively prepare for, participate in and ensure that the priorities and concerns of the region are adequately addressed in the outcomes of the conference. In this connection, Africa:

(a) Reiterates the importance of the conference in consolidating and scaling-up the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, thus enabling small island developing States to attain sustainable development, and the need for actions to be undertaken to create awareness and generate a high profile for the conference;

(b) Underlines the need for the conference to reach an outcome that is bold and ambitious, which builds on previous processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy plus 5. As such, Africa calls for the outcome to build on the progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy;

(c) Underscores the importance of robust national and regional preparations and therefore the need to mobilize and provide adequate resources for capacity-building and to support national and regional preparatory activities for the

conference, as well as the effective representation and participation of African small island developing States in the conference;

(d) Urges effective and coordinated support to the national and regional preparations to be provided by the United Nations system for African small island developing States and encourages ECA to be actively engaged in the process, working closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Small Island Developing States Unit, UNDP/Regional Bureau for Africa, UNEP/Regional Office for Africa, other relevant United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations such as the Indian Ocean Commission.

Programme of work on broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product

31. Africa has long recognized the need for new reference indicators to assess the economic, social and environmental performance of its economies, alongside gross domestic product (GDP). In this context, the region has called for using the new indicators and the human development index for a better understanding of the state of its economies. Furthermore, Africa considers as important the adoption of policies that promote the integration of the true environmental cost of production and consumption into accounting models, in order to address the cause, rather than the symptoms, of environmental and natural resources degradation and depletion.

32. In spite of efforts to bridge the gap through several regional, subregional and national initiatives, African countries continue to be afflicted by limited institutional capacities and weak statistical systems. Therefore, Africa welcomes the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for broader measures of progress to complement GDP in order to better inform policy decisions. The region looks forward to the successful launching of a programme of work in this area by the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, including those in the region. This will provide Africa with the opportunity to undertake a more accurate assessment of the state of its economies and adopt polices that internalize the social and environmental costs of growth to better inform sustainable development trajectories. In the light of the foregoing, Africa submits as follows:

(a) The Statistical Commission for Africa should provide a platform in the region to discuss and inform Africa's position on the programme of work on measures to complement GDP. In this regard, its various working groups should effectively coordinate with a view to ensuring effective linkages with one another, relevant ECA committees and the United Nations Statistics Division;

(b) The African Union Commission, in collaboration with ECA and the African Development Bank, should develop a management framework for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, taking into account the need to consider statistics and indicators to complement GDP and other economic indicators from the System of National Accounts to provide more comprehensive measures of sustainable development;

(c) The African Union Commission, ECA, the African Development Bank and other regional institutions, as well as the international community, are called upon to step up their support to African countries in the context of relevant regional

and subregional frameworks, in order to enable their effective participation in the programme of work on measures to complement GDP;

(d) The United Nations Statistics Division should ensure effective linkages with relevant regional platforms to ensure that region-specific priorities and concerns, as well as challenges and constraints, are factored into the global discussions.

Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

33. Africa applauds the pronouncements of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on the green economy, which are in line with its thinking. The region reiterates that the green economy is but one tool or pathway for achieving sustainable development. In this regard, the green economy should be rooted in national priorities and plans, and should not be used as aid conditionality and become a barrier to trade. The transition should be enabled by adequate means of implementation and should take into account the level of development of the region.

34. Africa is already engaged in the green economy discussions, which has been debated in several regional platforms. Moreover, some African countries have adopted green-growth strategies and are pursuing green growth in selected sectors. However, in view of the concerns expressed regarding the transition to a green economy, it is considered prudent to adopt a step approach, focusing on selected sectors of the economy where targeted investments with accompanying enabling measures could spur inclusive green growth. It is for this reason that several development partners are now referring to inclusive green growth rather than green economy, which may imply the need for radical transformational changes.

35. In the light of the above, Africa:

(a) Will continue to deliberate on the green economy and green-growth paradigms with a view to better understanding their implications for the region;

(b) Will adopt a step-wise approach, focusing initial efforts on understanding the challenges and opportunities for inclusive green growth in selected sectors of the economy;

(c) Use the momentum of the Conference as an opportunity to catalyse local actions for sustainability and development programmes in the area of green growth for the realization of sustainable urbanization;

(d) Will endeavour to put in place an enabling environment that would strengthen partnership with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, and enable business and industry to contribute to sustainable development, and to ensure that green growth contributes to the overarching goal of poverty eradication;

(e) Calls on developed countries to speedily implement internationally agreed commitments on appropriate technology development, transfer and diffusion and corresponding know-how on favourable terms;

(f) Urges the international community to mobilize additional financial resources to support African countries that decide to develop and implement inclusive green-growth strategies and plans that are aligned with national priorities and development strategies;

(g) ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, UNEP, UNDP and other regional partners should support the sustainable development efforts of Africa, including through:

(i) Assessing the challenges and opportunities of pursuing inclusive green growth for their development agenda;

(ii) Supporting the development of inclusive green-growth policies and strategies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(iii) Establishing mechanisms for sharing toolboxes and best practices in applying policies on green economy/green growth and good examples of policies promoting inclusive green growth;

(iv) Developing and applying methodologies for assessing policies on inclusive green growth.

Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues

36. Africa deems the thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as relevant to the sustainable development agenda of the region. For most of them, the region has prepared programmes and action plans. In this regard, Africa will implement the outcomes of the Conference within the framework of existing regional, subregional and national frameworks, which could be reviewed to address the outcomes. The support of United Nations agencies through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa will provide an effective framework for coordinated support to the implementation of the outcomes.

37. In this regard, Africa submits that the international community should:

(a) Support the revision and strengthening of existing regional programmes and action plans to incorporate, as appropriate, related thematic and cross-sectoral issues identified in the outcome document of the Conference;

(b) Support the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to implement the business and work plans of its various clusters to ensure coordinated support for the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference from regional to national levels.

Africa

38. Africa welcomes the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development dedicated a specific section of the outcome document to the region. It welcomes the call of the Conference for the international community to enhance support and fulfil commitments to advance sustainable development in the region, including the effective implementation of the NEPAD programme. Africa reiterates this call, as well as the one urging development partners to support the region in strengthening human capacities and democratic institutions, in line with national priorities, and to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing development.

39. Africa recognizes that the foundation for sustainable development lies in good governance, and has made important strides towards deepening political and economic governance, as well as institution-building.

40. In order to enhance the momentum towards the achievement of sustainable development, Africa calls on the international community to:

(a) Support the new generation of leaders through the provision of the necessary funding for credible electoral processes that respond to the need for change, reforms and new perspectives in the pursuit of sustainable development;

(b) Enhance support for the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, which is a good initiative for strengthening governance in the region. The effective implementation of the national plans of action deriving from the Africa Peer Review Mechanism process will go a long way in improving political, economic and corporate governance in countries;

(c) Reinvigorate the political will and commitment to enable Africa to realize its sustainable development goals, such as those embodied in NEPAD, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Support the development and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development with clear milestones for the achievement of results in each of the dimensions of sustainable development;

(e) Support the creation of a sustainable development financing mechanism for Africa, to enable a well-coordinated and efficient mobilization of resources at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable development commitments in the region.

Conclusion and the way forward

41. The region commends the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for setting in motion a series of crucial intergovernmental processes that will ultimately determine the impact of the Conference on the global sustainable development agenda. All of these processes are critical for Africa, as they deal with matters that have significant bearing on the region's sustainable development agenda.

42. Africa stands ready to effectively engage in these intergovernmental processes, in order to ensure that its priorities and concerns are adequately addressed in their outcomes. These include: the high-level political forum on sustainable development; sustainable development goals; means of implementation (financing, technology development and transfer and capacity development); the programme on broader measures of progress to complement GDP and the third international conference on small island developing States.

43. Africa will build on the partnership model of the Africa regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Conference outcomes in the region. Africa will not lose the momentum and will engage in the implementation process with even more determination than during the preparatory period. This is considered crucial, as sustainable development is not an option in the choice of routes to the

transformation of national economies and societies. It is a challenge that Africa has to address for long-term survival. Therefore, Africa calls on its development partners to effectively accompany it in its implementation of the outcomes.

44. This outcome document shall be considered a living document to be updated on the basis of new developments and information. In this regard, ECA will update the document in close consultation with the Bureau of the eighth session of the Commission on Food Security and Sustainable Development, the African Permanent Missions in Addis Ababa, and the Coordinator of the African Group in New York. It shall serve as Africa's collective input to the twentieth session of the Commission and to relevant General Assembly processes on follow up to the outcomes of the Conference. It shall also form the basis for the preparation of an action plan on the outcomes, which will be jointly prepared and implemented by the African Union Commission, ECA and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with all stakeholders and other partners at regional, subregional, national and local levels.

45. ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in consultation with the Chair of the eighth session of the Commission on Food Security and Sustainable Development and the Coordinator of the African Group in New York, shall coordinate and ensure that this outcome document is presented at relevant regional forums, including the twentieth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union; and the Fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Commission Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Vote of thanks

46. We commend the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other partners for supporting Africa's adequate preparations for and effective participation in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and for facilitating the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the Conference in the region.

47. We further commend the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for successfully convening the Africa regional implementation meetings for the twentieth session of the Commission.

48. We are grateful to Lazare Makayat Safouesse, Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa and Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Commission on Food Security and Sustainable Development, for ably guiding the deliberations of the meeting with successful and productive outcomes.

49. Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their generosity and warm hospitality during our stay in Addis Ababa.